

AIR BAGS

Most vehicles are equipped with one or more airbags to supplement the safety belts. Airbags reduce the likelihood that the occupant's head or torso will strike some portion of the vehicle's interior. Airbags are designed to inflate if the sensors detect a significant frontal collision. The airbags deploy at speeds of 160 to 200 miles per hour, and the entire deployment process takes about 1/20th of a second -- faster than the blink of an eye. In the event your airbag deploys, it is common for a powder-like substance to fill the vehicle compartment. This substance is only a drying agent for the airbag but could be mistaken for smoke.

If your vehicle is equipped with an airbag, there are some things you should remember to avoid serious injury:

- Move the seat back. The driver's seat should be as far back from the dashboard as possible while still being able to operate the vehicle safely. The passenger seat should also be set back as far as possible.
- Drivers should place their hands on the outside of the steering wheel -- never across the steering wheel where the airbag deploys.
- Children 12 years of age and under should ride in the back seat in a safety belt or child-restraint system. **THE RISK TO CHILDREN FROM AIRBAGS CAN BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED IF CHILDREN ARE IN THE BACK SEAT.**
- Infants in rear-facing child safety restraint systems should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with the passenger side airbags enabled. Turn off the airbag if your vehicle is equipped with the factory installed disabling switch.

CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

Kentucky Law states: Any driver of a motor vehicle, when transporting a child of forty (40) inches in height or less in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state, shall have the child properly secured in a child restraint system of a type meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards. Any person who violates the provisions of Kentucky's Child Restraint Law shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) and shall pay an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) which shall be deposited in the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.

Proper installation of the Child Safety Seat is your first priority. The Safety Seat will not provide the maximum protection if not properly installed. The Safety Seat should ideally be placed in the middle of the rear seat and anchored to prevent any movement in the event of a collision. Assistance with the installation of your Child Safety Seat may be found at a Child Safety Seat Inspection Site at your local Kentucky State Police Post.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Each year children are injured or tragically die as a result of being left unattended in a vehicle. When you leave a child in the vehicle alone, with the keys in the ignition, you risk the child moving the vehicle and causing a collision. When you leave a small child in the vehicle for an extended time during hot weather, you risk the life of that child.

Kentucky Law states it is **ILLEGAL** to leave a child under the age of eight (8) years in a motor vehicle under circumstances which manifest an extreme indifference to human life and which create a grave risk of death to the child, thereby causing the death. There are several statutes in Kentucky Law that makes it illegal to endanger the life or health of a child.

STEERING LOCKS AND LOCKING SYSTEMS

The spring-loaded steering lock has been standard equipment on most vehicles worldwide since 1969. It serves as an auto theft device. Be cautious with vehicles with steering-lock devices.

Never turn your ignition key to the lock position while the vehicle is in motion. That will cause the steering to lock and result in loss of vehicle control.

TRANSMISSION PARK SYSTEM

Park. Shift the transmission into the “park” position. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

TWO-HAND BUTTON SYSTEM

Park. This system requires two hands. Depress button below the steering column. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

LEVER SYSTEM

Park. Depress lever located near the ignition. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

ONE-HAND BUTTON SYSTEM

Park. Depress button near the ignition. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

PUSH-IN SYSTEM

Park. Turn key to OFF, push in. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

TURN-AND-REMOVE SYSTEM

Park. Turn key to LOCK and remove.

© 2002 Automobile Safety Foundation

COLLISIONS

If you are involved in a collision:

- Stop your vehicle at or near the crash scene. Stay there until the police have arrived and questioned everyone involved.
- Get the names and addresses of all people involved in the collision and any witnesses.
- Record the following information regarding any other operator(s) involved in the collision:
 - Name, address, and license number from the operator's license.
 - Vehicle registration number.
 - Make, model, and year of vehicle.
 - License plate number.
 - Insurance company name and number.
 - List of damage to vehicle.
- Record exactly what happened immediately before and after the collision. Later you may not remember everything correctly.
- Always contact the police if there is an injury, death, or vehicle and property damage exceeding \$500.

Any person operating a motor vehicle on the highways of this state who is involved in an accident resulting in any property damage exceeding \$500 in which an investigation is not conducted by a law enforcement officer, shall file a written report of the accident with the Department of State Police within ten days of occurrence of the accident, using forms provided by the Department.

Send this report to address listed below. This must be done within ten days after the accident, regardless of who is at fault. Such a report is **NOT** necessary if the police have made a report.

Kentucky State Police
1250 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

If the accident involves a parked vehicle, try to find the owner. If you cannot, leave a note where it can be seen. The note should contain:

Your name and address.
Your driver's license number.
License plate number.
Date and time of accident.

FIRST AID TO ACCIDENT VICTIMS

By prompt and proper action you may be able to assist in saving a life or in easing pain and suffering of persons who have been injured in traffic or other mishaps.

- Summon trained and skilled help. If possible, call emergency medical personnel and notify a peace officer. You should clearly and correctly state the place of the accident so that emergency personnel can find you easily.
- Only in life-threatening emergencies should you try to remove an individual from a collision.
- If possible, wait for an E.M.T. or ambulance rather than attempt to remove an individual from an accident.
- Keep the victim warm by covering him with a blanket or coat if necessary.

MOTORCYCLES

All traffic laws and regulations apply equally to passenger car and motorcycle operators. To qualify for a motorcycle operator's license, you must learn the information contained throughout this entire manual. Many motorcycle dealers have free literature on riding tips, which may also be helpful to you.

You must be at least 18 years old or the holder of a valid operator's license in order to apply for a motorcycle permit. Applicants under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian who is willing to assume responsibility sign the Driver License Application. This is true even if the parent or legal guardian has already signed the Driver License Application allowing the minor to drive a moped or automobile.

In this section, emphasis will be on:

- Laws.
- Driver Requirements.
- Vehicle Requirements.
- Safety Tips.

KENTUCKY MOTORCYCLE LAW

Definition: Kentucky law defines a motorcycle as any motor-driven vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding tractors and vehicles on which the operator and passengers ride in an enclosed cab, and excluding a moped.

Motor bikes, mini bikes, and any other small vehicles may not be operated upon the street or highway without first meeting the requirements for a regular motor vehicle, such as registration plate; and the operator must have a license to operate the vehicle. The only place a driver may legally ride or operate this type of vehicle without an operator's license and other safety equipment is on private property.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program shall offer motorcycle rider training courses designed to develop and instill knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills necessary for the proper operation of a motorcycle.

Rider training courses shall be open to any resident of the state who either holds a current valid driver's license for any classification or holds a motorcycle instruction permit.

Applicants for a motorcycle driver's license will be exempted from the licensing skills test if they present satisfactory evidence of successful completion of an approved rider training course that includes a similar test of skill.

For more information regarding motorcycle rider training school locations and costs, please contact the Kentucky Motorcycle Safety Program at 1-800-396-3234.

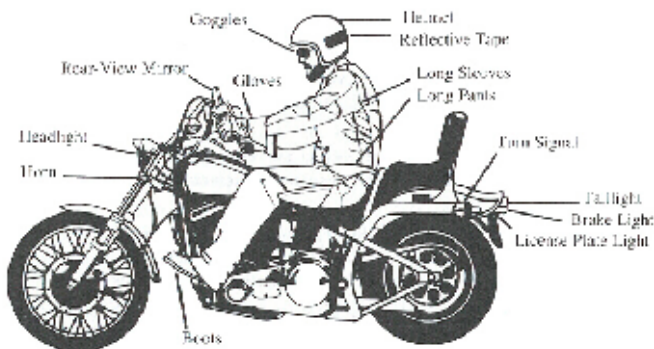
DRIVER/PASSENGER REQUIREMENTS

The driver/operator must have:

- A valid motor vehicle operator's license with a valid motorcycle operator's endorsement thereon, a motorcycle license, or an instruction permit to operate a motorcycle, before operating a motorcycle upon any public roadway in Kentucky.
 - *A motorcycle operator authorized to drive a motorcycle on an instruction permit shall not be authorized to carry passengers.*
- The operator must use an approved eye-protection device, in the manner prescribe by the Transportation Cabinet, and both operator and passenger must wear approved protective headgear anytime the vehicle is in motion.
- A person may operate without a helmet if he is over 21 and has held a motorcycle license for one year or more. Passengers must be 21 or over to ride without a helmet. Persons under 21, or those who have held their licenses for less than one year, must still wear protective headgear.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

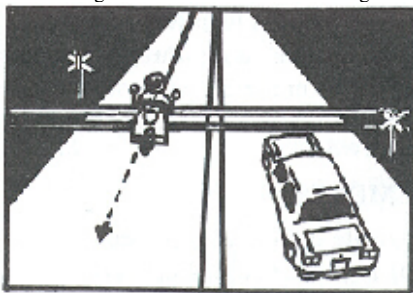
- It is unlawful to operate or ride as a passenger on a motorcycle which does not have a seat or footrest permanently attached, both being specifically designed to carry passengers in a safe manner.
- Equipment Required: Rearview mirror, one headlight high and low beam, taillight, horn, muffler, tailpipe, brakelight, front and rear brakes, proof of liability insurance, good tires, and registration. Turn signals are now required, if they were part of the factory equipment for that model.



HAZARDS TO MOTORCYCLISTS

CHILDREN. Children and animals may dart in the path of motorcycles. Be especially careful in school and residential areas.

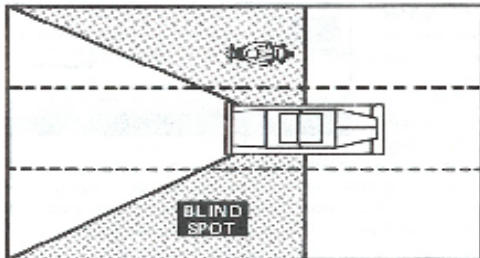
TRACK CROSSING. A motorcyclist should approach all track crossings, metal bridge-expansion joints, and metal grills with extreme care and at a 90-degree angle when possible. Wet metal grating on a bridge may be the most slippery surface that a cyclist will encounter. Slow down before reaching such hazards and avoid leaning too far.



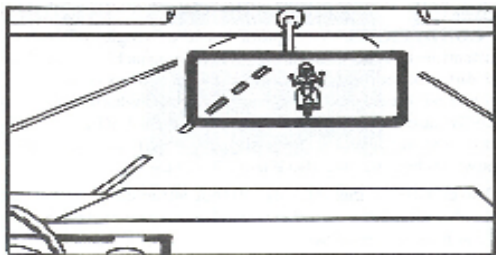
BRIDGE GRATINGS



BLIND SPOT. The cause of most motorcycle/motor-vehicle collisions is due to the cyclist not being seen by the other driver. For this reason, cyclists must always keep out of a driver's blind spot. To be seen on the open road, turn your headlight on.



FOLLOWING. When following a vehicle, ride near the left third of the lane. Never follow too closely, as this reduces the ability to stop safely and to see road and traffic conditions ahead.



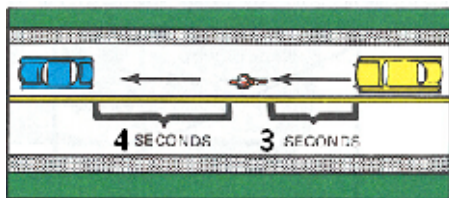
PARKED CARS. The cyclist must always scan ahead for possible dangers, such as drivers and passengers stepping out of or from between parked vehicles into the lane of traffic. This is one reason to drive in the left third of the lane.

TURNING. When rounding a corner or turn, lean into the turn. On wet or slippery surfaces, lean as little as possible and reduce speed.

BRAKING. Under normal stopping conditions, use both front and rear brakes. Avoid using the front brake only, because this causes the motorcycle to dip and may cause the cycle to skid, especially if the surface is slippery because of moisture, gravel, or sand. Keep both brakes properly adjusted. If you are riding an unfamiliar motorcycle, test the brakes before starting.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. A motorcyclist must follow other vehicles at a safe distance.

Heavier cycles require a longer stopping distance than lighter cycles. Stopping distance is also increased when the pavement is wet or slippery. It is very important to keep a safe margin when following another vehicle. A safe distance can be determined by using a four-second count. A three-second count is explained earlier under “Keeping A Space Cushion.”



It is safer for a motorcyclist to use a four-second distance than the three-second distance for other vehicles, because a motorcycle requires a longer stopping distance.

APPROACHING TRAFFIC LIGHTS OR MARKED/UNMARKED INTERSECTIONS.

When approaching a traffic light or intersection where other traffic has stopped, stop behind the vehicle ahead. “Never go in between cars.” When in doubt as to who has the right-of-way at an intersection, yield to the other driver. Always prepare to stop when approaching an intersection.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS. A frequent cause of single-vehicle motorcycle accidents is inattention to road conditions. When approaching a surface of loose gravel, sand, or dirt, use extreme caution and avoid sudden or rapid movements. When riding on wet pavement, reduce speed and avoid sudden braking or acceleration. Be especially careful of the center “strip” of each traffic lane, as it usually has a film of oil covering it and is very slippery when wet. The center painted lines on the roadway, when wet, are also hazardous to cyclists.

PASSING. Never pass to the right of another vehicle on a two-lane road. A cycle may be smaller than other vehicles, but all rules and regulations still pertain to it as though it were an automobile.

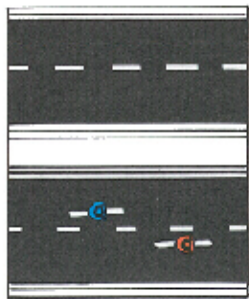
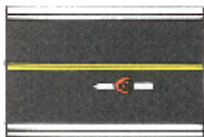
BEING SEEN. Many accidents with other vehicles occur simply because the cyclist was not seen by other drivers. Using headlights both at night and during daylight hours causes a motorcycle to be more visible and, therefore, somewhat safer. As a result of not being seen, most accidents involving a motorcycle happen at intersections.

WIND. Gusty winds are usually a hazard to the cyclist. These winds can be a product of nature or semi-trailer trucks. The sudden and often unexpected intensity of a gust of wind may cause loss of control.

PASSENGERS OR BUNDLES. A motorcycle becomes less maneuverable as more weight is added to it. With increased weight, it is more difficult to keep upright and properly balanced. A heavy load also increases stopping distance and makes it harder to start at intersections. Avoid carrying heavy bundles or passengers, if possible. If it is unavoidable, take these precautions to make it safer: Carry parcels in a luggage carrier or in a saddlebag; instruct the passenger to lean with the rider, keep feet on the footrests, and place hands on the rider’s hips. Passengers or bundles should never be carried in front of the cyclist.

POSITION. The best lane position for seeing and being seen is the left third of the lane.

1. On a two-lane roadway, ride on the left portion of your lane.
2. On a four-lane roadway, when alone, ride on the left half of the right lane, or on the right half of the inside lane.
3. When riding in a group, you should ride in a staggered position, and never more than two cycles side by side.



RIGHT-OF-WAY. Even though the right-of-way is yours, it may be necessary to yield. The cyclist nearly always loses in a collision with a larger vehicle. Remember, others may not see you.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Passengers and operators alike should wear protective clothing in addition to the required safety equipment. Since approximately 60 percent of all cycle fatalities are from head injuries, it is important that cyclists wear a protective helmet with a chinstrap. Clothing made from heavy material, such as leather, gives more protection in a motorcycle mishap. Good common sense demands that cyclists wear shoes at all times. In fact, heavy leather shoes or boots should be preferred over tennis shoes.

SAFETY TIPS

- Always wear a U.S. Department of Transportation approved helmet and proper clothing.
- When traveling with several motorcyclists, ride in a staggered position, or at least never ride more than two abreast.
- Be careful with brakes -- apply both brakes at the same time.
- Watch for slick or loose surface, and reduce speed before you get to these areas.
- Check nearby traffic before passing or changing lanes.
- Be alert at intersections. This is where most motorcycle accidents occur.
- Never make a U-turn without first coming to a full stop.
- Always wear clothing that can be seen readily by other drivers.
- Stay off the interstate highways unless your motorcycle is capable of cruising at interstate speed. The motor size should be a 250 cc or larger for interstate speeds.
- Do not carry passengers unless your motorcycle is designed for more than one person.
- Turn your lights on, even in daylight hours, so other drivers can see you.
- Remember that your stopping distance is increased if you are carrying a passenger or heavy bundle.
- Do not loan your motorcycle to anyone who is not experienced in riding your type motorcycle.
- The best lane position for seeing and being seen is on the left third of the lane.
- Guard against overconfidence.
- Ride as though you are invisible.
- Remember that your stopping distance is greater than that of a passenger car.
- Avoid congested traffic areas and high speed when learning to ride (first year).
- Handlebars should be set not more than 15 inches above the seat level for maximum control and comfort.

HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTORCYCLES

The handling characteristics of a motorcycle are different from those of four-wheeled vehicles. For example, motorcycles are particularly vulnerable to weather and road-surface conditions. Like bicycles, motorcycles are not very stable. They can easily be spilled (tipped over).

EXPOSURE AND THE MOTORCYCLIST

Motorcycle operators lack protection. They have little protection against bad weather and even less protection against injuries that might be caused by falls or by collisions with other vehicles or objects.

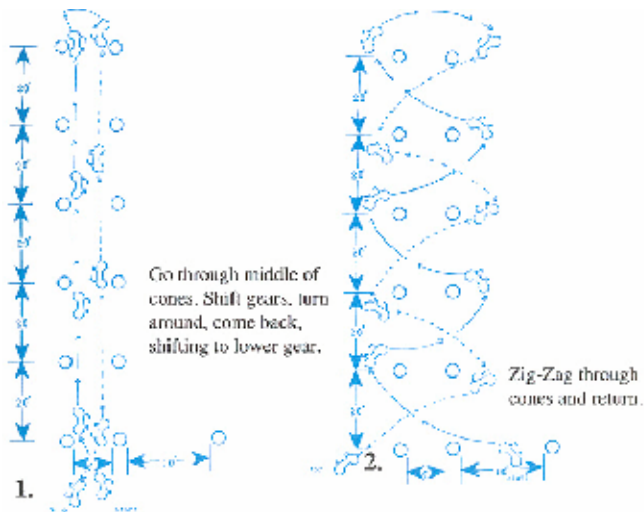
VISIBILITY

Compared to trucks and cars, motorcycles are quite small. For this reason, they are often not noticed by other drivers. Some drivers may not spot or even think to look for motorcyclists traveling in their blind spots.

REMEMBER – OTHER DRIVERS MAY NOT SEE YOU!

PERFORMANCE TEST

During the motorcycle performance test, the applicant will be required to maneuver through the cones as illustrated in the following diagrams.



MOPEDS

“Moped” means either a motorized bicycle whose frame design may include one (1) or more horizontal crossbars supporting a fuel tank so long as it also has pedals, or a motorized bicycle with a step-through type frame which may or may not have pedals, rated no more than two (2) brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged, and capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

First time applicants for a moped license must be at least 16 years old and complete a driver license application. You will only be required to pass the general knowledge and vision tests to be issued a moped license. A skills test and permit are not required. Persons already having a valid operator’s license or permit do not have to apply for a moped license.

OPERATION

Mopeds are a little more complicated to ride and operate than bicycles, but considerably simpler than motorcycles. Familiarity with controls can be learned by operating the vehicle in a parking lot or other off-street area.

Since mopeds are not easily seen in the traffic flow, it is vital that the operator surround himself with as large a “space cushion” as possible. Riding with the headlight on and bike flags will help others see you.

Moped operators are not required to wear helmets or eye-protection devices, but they are strongly recommended.

Mopeds **CANNOT** be operated on limited-access highways where the minimum speed is more than thirty (30) miles per hour.

TRAIL BIKES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV’S)

Trail bikes or all-terrain vehicles are designed for off-road use, and their use on streets or highways is illegal.

“All-terrain vehicle” means any motor vehicle for off-road use, which is fifty (50) inches or less in width; has a dry weight of six hundred (600) pounds or less; travels on three (3) or more low pressure tires; is designed for operator use only with no passengers; and has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator, and handle bars for steering control.

- No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle upon any public highway or roadway or upon the right-of-way of any public highway or roadway.
 - Exception: Persons may operate an ATV on any two-lane public highway, if the operator is engaged in farm or agricultural-related activities, construction, road maintenance, or snow removal. Persons not engaged in one of these activities may operate an ATV on any two-lane public highway in order to cross the highway, but may not travel on the highway for more than 2/10 of a mile. Persons who operate an ATV on a public highway must have a valid operator’s license and comply with all traffic regulations; must have at least one headlight and two taillights illuminated at all times; and may only operate the ATV during daylight hours, unless engaged in snow removal or emergency road maintenance.
- No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle on any public or private property without the consent of the landowner, tenant, or governmental agency responsible for the property, and unless the operator wears approved protective headgear, in the manner prescribed by the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, at all times that the vehicle is in motion. The approved headgear requirement shall not apply when the operator of the all-terrain vehicle is engaged in farm or agriculture-related activities.
- No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine size exceeding ninety (90) cubic centimeters displacement, nor shall any person under the age of sixteen (16) years operate an all-terrain vehicle except under direct parental supervision.
- No person under the age of twelve (12) years shall operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine size exceeding seventy (70) cubic centimeters displacement.

BICYCLES

Traffic laws, highway signs, rules-of-the-road, and safety requirements apply to bicycles the same as other vehicles. Not all people ride bicycles, but as a driver you must be aware of their rules and regulations. This section includes:

- Bicycle Laws.
- Rules for Cyclists.
- Rules for Motorists.

BICYCLE LAWS

Kentucky law states that cyclists shall:

“Be granted all the rights and be subject to all the duties” applicable to drivers of any vehicle. A bicycle is a vehicle, not a toy, and, as such, must obey the traffic rules and regulations pertaining to all highway users. Motorists should regard bicyclists as they would any other vehicle.

A signal is required for a vehicle that is not a motor vehicle and may be given by either hand signals, signal lamps, or mechanical signal devices. The signal shall be given intermittently for the last fifty (50) feet traveled by the vehicle before the turn.

Hand signals shall be executed in the following manner when operating a vehicle that is not a motor vehicle:

- The hand and arm shall be extended horizontally from the left side of the vehicle to indicate a left turn;
- The arm shall be extended horizontally from the left of the vehicle with the left hand and arm extended upward from the elbow, or the right arm and hand shall be extended horizontally to indicate a right turn.
- Either arm shall be extended horizontally with the hand and arm extended downward from the elbow to indicate a stop or decrease in speed.

Some counties have local traffic laws called ordinances. These control the operation and parking of bicycles within city limits. As a driver, it is important for you to know what they are and to obey them at all times.

RULES FOR BICYCLISTS

- Never use Interstate and Parkway systems for cycling.
- Use hand signals to communicate your actions to other vehicles.
- Obey the instructions of official traffic-control signals and signs. Stop at stop signs and for stoplights just like a motor vehicle.
- Operate a bicycle within posted speed limits or at a rate reasonable for existing conditions.
- Ride a bicycle on the right side of the road with traffic.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and on sidewalks. Give an audible warning (bell or horn) before passing pedestrians.
- When riding at night, operate the bicycle with a white light visible from the front and a red reflector or light visible from the rear.
 - Reflector tape may be used for added visibility.
- All slower-moving vehicles, including bicycles, shall drive as closely as practical to the right-hand boundary of the highway. Extreme caution should be used when moving out into the center of the road to avoid road debris, to pass another vehicle, or to make a left turn.



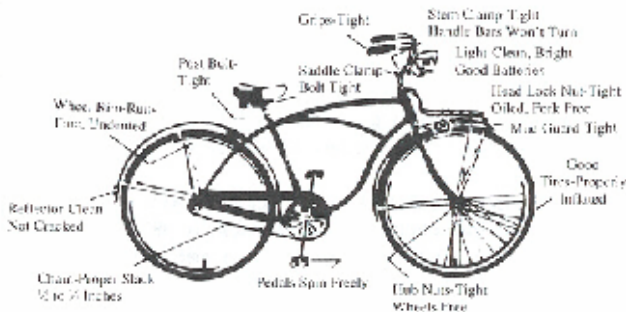
- **DO NOT RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK**
- Never park a bicycle on a sidewalk in such a way as to interfere with pedestrian traffic.
- Ride on a bike path adjacent to the roadway, if one is provided.
- Carry no more persons than the number for which the bicycle is designed and equipped.
- Never ride more than two abreast so as to interfere with the normal movement of traffic.

RULES FOR MOTORISTS CONCERNING BICYCLES

A motorist must:

- Share the road with bicycles.
- Before passing a cyclist, look to see if there is loose debris on the pavement that might cause them to move into the center of the lane. Pass a cyclist only when it can be done safely, and give ample room (three feet) between your car and the cyclist. Realize the air turbulence your vehicle can create at high speeds or in windy weather. Give the cyclist extra room if your vehicle has extended outside rearview mirrors. Return to the lane only when you are safely clear of the overtaken bicyclist.
- Look for cyclists. Because of their narrow profile, you will need to develop your eye-scanning patterns to include bicyclists.
- When you are turning right after passing a cyclist, leave ample room so you don't cut him off when you slow for your turn.
- When opening your car door, check behind for cyclists.
- At night be extra alert and don't use your high beams, for they will temporarily blind the cyclist.

Remember, bicyclists are not special and privileged. They have the same rights, rules, and responsibilities as all other highway users.



SELECT a bicycle with proper equipment for safety. Keep the bike in good condition.

KEEPING IN SHAPE

Driving is one of the most complex things that people do. To do it well takes a lot of skill and judgment. When you are a new driver, it takes all the ability you have.

If anything happens to lower your physical or mental ability, you cannot drive as well. Your ability to drive is affected by:

- Drinking
- Drugs
- Combining Drugs and/or Alcohol
- Vision and Hearing
- Alertness
- Health
- Emotions

DRINKING AND DRIVING

In Kentucky intoxicating beverages (beer, whiskey, wine, etc.) are involved to some extent in some 40 percent of collisions fatal to pedestrians, about 48 percent of collisions fatal to drivers, and a factor in 72 percent of the fatal collisions in which only one car was involved. Nationally, thousands of people die each year in alcohol-related collisions. If you drink even a small amount, your chances of having a collision are greater than if you were not drinking.

WHY IS DRINKING AND DRIVING SO DANGEROUS?

When alcohol enters your stomach, it goes directly into your bloodstream and then to all parts of your body. It reaches your brain in 20 to 40 minutes. Alcohol affects those parts of your brain that control your judgment, vision, and skill. As the amount of alcohol increases, your judgment, vision, and skill deteriorate. You have trouble judging distances, speeds, and movement of other vehicles. Finally, you have trouble controlling your vehicle.

WHAT IS YOUR LIMIT?

The minimum blood-alcohol concentration at which a person is presumed to be under the influence of intoxicants in the State of Kentucky is .08%. The minimum blood-alcohol for CDL drivers is .04%. The .08 level is a “per se” violation, which means that is illegal to operate a vehicle in Kentucky with a blood-alcohol concentration at that level. Under this definition, a prosecutor does not have to prove impairment of the driver. The level for DUI for those under 21 years of age remains at .02%. Blood-alcohol concentration is determined by a Breathalyzer or other chemical tests.

“Under the influence” means that due to drinking alcoholic beverages a person has lost (to some degree) the clearness of mind and self-control that he would otherwise possess. Loss of judgment, vision, and skill may occur long before obvious symptoms of intoxication. **Even one drink will affect your driving.**

Experts advise that it takes your body approximately one hour to burn up one ounce of alcohol.

WHAT IF YOU HAVE TOO MUCH?

There is no way to sober up quickly. Coffee, fresh air, exercise, or cold showers will *not* help. Sleep will not help either, except to pass the time. Time is the only thing that will sober you up.

WHAT IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER STOPS YOU?

If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer, you may be asked to take a chemical test of the alcohol in your body. Under the “Implied Consent” law, anyone who operates a motor vehicle in Kentucky consents to take a chemical test if arrested for DUI (Driving While Under the Influence of Intoxicating beverages or other substance which may impair one’s driving ability). If you take the test, the reading will be used in court as evidence. If you refuse, your license may be revoked even if you are not convicted of the DUI charge or any other violations.



Traffic stops can be a stressful experience for both the police officer and the person stopped. Here are some ways to improve your traffic stop experience.

- Invoke the “Golden Rule” and treat the officer the way you would like to be treated.
- Remember that you are required to cooperate with all reasonable requests that law enforcement personnel make.
- If an officer signals for you to stop, remain calm and pull over safely.
- Be prepared to produce your driver’s license, proof of vehicle insurance, and the vehicle registration.
- Remain in the vehicle unless the officer tells you otherwise.
- Keep your hands visible.
- If a non-uniformed officer in an unmarked vehicle stops you, you can ask the officer for identification.
- If you believe the reason for the stop is vague or unclear, you can ask the officer for details.
- If you are uncomfortable about stopping because an area is deserted or not well lit, explain this to the officer and ask if you can proceed to a more populated or better illuminated place.
- Procedural questions and complaints about an officer’s treatment of you can be forwarded to the officer’s supervisor.

- Don't speed, drive aggressively, or drive while you are impaired. Always wear your safety belt and correctly buckle up any children who are riding with you. Yield to pedestrians when they have the right-of-way. If you follow all traffic laws, you reduce your chances that the police will stop you.
- Try to find the "positive" in the traffic stop. Use the information you have received to make yourself a better motorist.

AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES

Mandatory jail time will be waiting for anyone convicted of DUI while:

- Operating a motor vehicle in excess of 30 mph above the posted speed limit.
- Operating a motor vehicle in the wrong direction on a limited-access highway.
- Operating a motor vehicle that causes a collision resulting in death or serious physical injury.
- Operating a motor vehicle while the alcohol concentration in the operator's blood or breath is .18 BAC or more within two hours of cessation of operation of a motor vehicle.
- Refusing to take a blood, breath, or urine test requested by a police officer.
- Operating a motor vehicle while transporting a passenger under the age of 12 years old.

REPEAT OFFENDERS

Drivers convicted of a second or subsequent DUI will forfeit their license plates to the courts during the period of time in which the driver license is suspended. The court may order an ignition interlock device to be installed on the violator's vehicle after the driver serves a suspension period of at least one year. The ignition interlock device prevents a driver from operating that vehicle if the driver's breath-alcohol concentration exceeds .02.

| PRESUMPTIONS OF LAW (KRS 189A.010) | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| % Blood-Alcohol | "Under the Influence?" |
| .00 to .02 | Presumed "Yes" under 21 |
| .00 to .05 | Presumed Not |
| .06 to .07 | No Presumption |
| .08 or more | Presumed "Yes" |

DRUGS

Almost any drug can affect your driving skill. This is true of prescription drugs and drugs you can buy without prescription.

- Most drugs taken for headaches, colds, hay fever, allergy, or to calm your nerves can make you drowsy and can affect your control of the vehicle.
- Most pills, "uppers," and diet pills may make you more alert for a short time; but later, they can make you nervous, dizzy, and unable to concentrate. They can also affect your vision.
- Studies have shown that people who use marijuana make more mistakes and are arrested more often than other drivers. Also, their eyes have more trouble adjusting to headlight glare.

COMBINING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Combining alcohol and drugs, even over-the-counter drugs, is very dangerous, and the results of this combination are unpredictable. Your driving ability may be impaired; and in certain combinations, alcohol and drugs may result in death. You should avoid taking any drugs before driving which are labeled “may cause drowsiness or dizziness.” Kentucky law prohibits driving under the influence of alcohol and/or other substances that may impair one’s driving ability, such as prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs.

VISION AND HEARING

Good vision is necessary for driving. Most of what you do behind the wheel is based on what you see.

- **SEEING CLEARLY.** If you cannot see clearly, you cannot judge distance or spot trouble, so you will not be able to do anything about it.
- **GOOD SIDE VISION.** You need to see “out of the corner of your eye.” This lets you spot vehicles creeping up on either side of you while you are looking straight ahead.
- **JUDGING DISTANCES.** You can see clearly and still not be able to judge distances. Good distance judgment is important in knowing how far you are from other objects.
- **GOOD NIGHT VISION.** Many people who can see clearly in the daytime have trouble seeing at night. Some people cannot make things out in dim light. Others may have trouble with the glare of headlights.
 - It is important to have your eyes checked every year or two. You may never know about a slowly-developing vision problem unless your eyes are checked periodically.
- **HEARING** is more important to driving than many people realize. Your hearing can warn you of danger — the sound of horns, a siren, screeching tires, etc. Sometimes you can hear vehicles that you cannot see.
 - Hearing problems, like bad eyesight, can occur so slowly that you do not notice them. Drivers who know they are deaf or have hearing problems can adjust. They can learn to rely more on their visual abilities.
 - Someone with a hearing problem who does not know it is taking a chance each time he drives. A person may never know about a hearing problem unless he has his hearing tested periodically.

ALERTNESS

When you are tired, you cannot drive as well as you do when you are rested. Decisions are slower and more difficult to make, with a tendency to become upset easily. There is always the chance you will fall asleep behind the wheel. To keep from getting tired on a long trip:

- Get a lot of rest before you start — a normal night's sleep.
- Do not take any drugs that can make you drowsy — even the night before your start.
- Do not drive long hours. Driving straight through can be dangerous, if you are tired and sleepy. Set a common-sense limit of 300 to 400 miles a day. What good does it do to drive “straight through,” if you fall asleep when you get there?
- Take regular rest stops, even if you are not tired. Switch off with another driver every hour or so. Stop for coffee or a soft drink every 100 miles or every two hours.
- Keep shifting your eyes from one part of the road to another. Look at objects near and far, left and right, and check the speedometer.
- Roll your window down to get some fresh air.

If none of the above suggestions seem to help you stay awake, the best thing to do is pull off the highway at the first rest stop. A short nap may be enough to refresh you.

HEALTH

Any health problem can affect your driving — a bad cold, infection, or a virus. Even minor problems like a stiff neck, a cough, or a sore leg can also affect driving. If you are not “up to par,” let someone else drive.

Driving under the following conditions can be very dangerous:

- **EPILEPSY.** In Kentucky, a person subject to seizures is not allowed to drive unless a physician certifies that the individual has been seizure-free for 90 days and is under medical supervision.
- **DIABETES.** Diabetics on insulin should not drive when there is any danger of going into shock. This danger could result from skipping a meal or snack, or from taking the wrong amount of insulin. It is a good idea to have a friend or relative drive for you during times when your doctor is checking and adjusting the insulin dosage. Anyone with diabetes should also have regular vision exams to check for possible night blindness.
- **HEART CONDITION.** People with heart disease, high blood pressure, or circulatory problems, should be especially cautious when driving. Be aware of the potential for blackouts, fainting, or heart attack.

EMOTIONS

Emotions can have a great effect on your driving. You cannot drive well if you are worried, excited, afraid, angry, or just depressed. Emotions are hard to control. Here are a few tips:

- If you are angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. Do not drive until you have control of your emotions. If you are worried or depressed about something, try to take your mind off it. Listen to the radio.
- If you are the impatient type, plan on allowing for delays by allotting extra time to reach your destination. This will tend to keep you from speeding or driving recklessly, which could result in a collision or traffic ticket.
- Learn not to become upset when other drivers make a mistake or take advantage of you in certain driving situations. Getting mad can only cause you to make similar mistakes.
- If you are angry or upset with another person or driver, DO NOT vent your feelings through use of your vehicle. When you drive, “Be Calm and Stay Calm.”

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING AND ROAD RAGE

*Aggressive driving and road rage are not the same thing. **Road rage** is uncontrolled anger that results in violence or threatened violence on the road. Road rage IS criminal behavior and shall not be tolerated. **Aggressive driving** includes tailgating, abrupt lane changes, and speeding. These potentially dangerous behaviors are traffic offenses, but are not criminal behavior.*

To prevent the occurrence of road rage, drive safely and be courteous to other motorists. Don't tailgate, cut them off in traffic, or engage in other aggressive driving habits. If you should become involved in a road-rage incident, **do not** retaliate or engage in an argument with the enraged driver. You will only worsen the problem. For your safety, you should safely pull off the roadway in a well lit, public area and call for police assistance.

DISTRACTED/INATTENTIVE DRIVING

Being distracted from, or not giving full attention to your driving, could result in serious consequences. Recent statistics in Kentucky reveal that over **45%** of all collisions are attributed to distracted/inattentive driving. Some causes of distracted/inattentive driving are:

- Eating.
- Looking for things inside of your vehicle.
- Reading.
- Talking on your cell phone.

Distractions cause drivers to react more slowly to traffic conditions. They fail to recognize potential hazards such as debris in the roadway, or they fail to see the car in front of them stopping.

While you are driving, your full attention is required. By not paying attention to the traffic conditions ahead, you are a collision waiting to happen. You should be continuously scanning the roadway ahead of you, preparing to take evasive action if necessary.